



Lamoine Board of Selectmen

606 Douglas Hwy
Lamoine, ME 04605
(207) 667-2242
town@lamoine-me.gov

Minutes of September 12, 2013

Chair Jo Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

Present were: Selectmen Gary McFarland, Bernie Johnson, Nathan Mason, S. Josephine Cooper; Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon. Selectman Cynthia Donaldson had informed the board prior to the meeting that she would be unable to attend.

Agenda Review – No change was made to the printed agenda and addendum.

Minutes – August 1, 2013 – Jo moved to approve the minutes as written. Gary 2nd.
Vote in favor was 4-0.

Expenditure Warrant 3 – There were no questions in regard to the warrant which Selectmen had signed on August 22, 2013 separately in the amount of \$428,769.89.

Expenditure Warrant 4 – Selectmen signed warrant 4 in the amount of \$699,651.96. Stu noted that \$390,000 was a transfer to the various investment accounts, about \$167,000 was the RSU 24 bill and \$107,000 was the county tax bill. He noted that the semi-annual elected personnel paychecks were included on the warrant.

Cash & Budget Reports – Stu reported the final 2013 report was printed with the material provided this evening, and the 2014 running budget report was printed earlier in the day

Checking Account – Selectmen signed the statement expressing satisfaction with the review of the checking account reconciliation which had been provided to the board via e-mail prior to the meeting.

Small Claims Court – Stu reported that he filled out the small claims court paperwork and mailed it to the person who owes a bulky waste charge from several years ago, but has not received back acknowledgement of receipt. He said the next step would be to arrange for a deputy to serve the paperwork through District Court and asked if the Selectmen wished to do that. There was a discussion about spending the funds versus what is owed to the town. Jo said she did not wish to waste any more time and money on trying to collect and preferred that subtle reminders be given to the person. There was no disagreement with that tactic.

Audit – Stu reported that the audit report is done and in the Selectmen's materials for this evening. He said the report was done less than a week after the auditors visited the town hall. Jo moved to sign the management representation letter. Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Personal Property Tax Collections – Stu noted there are several sizable personal property bills from previous years that remain unpaid. He said the UCC lien process and the small claims court process are complicated by the lack of information from assessment records. He said perhaps a collection agency or the town attorney could be contacted to try to collect. Selectmen suggested contacting town attorney Beardsley for suggestions on how to proceed.

Map 1 Lot 28 – Stu reported that the apparent owner of Map 1 Lot 28 has filed an affidavit quitting claim of ownership on that property and sent a letter to the tax collector demanding a hearing on the property tax bill. He said that he responded that the tax collector has no authority to abate property taxes and there would be no hearing. He said he consulted with Maine Municipal Association. Selectmen reviewed the letter from the apparent property owner and the letter that Stu sent. Stu said the potential municipal tax foreclosure date is 18-months from the lien filing which as July 2013.

Special Town Meeting Warrant – Jo moved to sign the warrant calling for a special town meeting referendum vote on RSU 24 withdrawal on November 5, 2013. Nathan 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

A short discussion followed regarding the upcoming Maine State Federation of Firefighters Convention.

Public Hearing Date – Jo moved to set the public hearing date for the above referenced vote on Thursday, October 24, 2013 at 7:00 PM at the Lamoine School gym. Nathan 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0 (The regular Selectmen's meeting will be held at 6:30 PM at the school).**

Appointments – Jo moved to appoint Doug Stewart as a full member of the Conservation Commission. Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 3-0 (Mason abstained)**

Jo moved to appoint Linda Penkalski as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission. Bernie 2nd. **Vote in favor was 3-0 (Mason abstained)**

Selectmen noted that they received an offer from Cece Ohmart to serve on the Comprehensive Plan Planning Committee. Stu reported that committee is nearly done its work. Selectmen instructed Stu to thank Ms. Ohmart for her offer and advise that they will keep her name on the list should a Comprehensive Plan Committee be approved by the Town Meeting.

Appointment Policy – Jo said the draft looks OK to her. Stu said he would contact current appointees and invite comment for the next meeting before possible adoption.

General Assistance Ordinance – Jo moved to set September 26, 2013 as the public hearing date on changes to the General Assistance Ordinance. Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Transfer Station – Stu reported that a separate dumpster has been set in place to collect the mixed paper product which will slow down the frequency of hauling the cardboard to Coastal Recycling, thus saving money. He noted there was an error by Pine Tree Waste the first week after the new system was in place.

Fire Truck Update – Stu reported the new fire truck is under construction in Island Falls.

Pressure Washing – Stu reported Harmon's Pressure Washing was the low offer for the town office at \$425.00.

Crack Sealing – Stu reported the crack sealing projects on Shore Road and Mill Road was completed. Bernie said he was glad to see the work on Mill Road to try to stop the cracking on the section repaved in 2012.

Health Insurance Waiting Period – Jo moved the change the waiting period for new full time employees to be eligible for health insurance coverage from 90-days to 60-days. Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Municipal Review Committee – There were no takers to be nominated for the Municipal Review Committee directorship.

MMA Convention Delegate – Jo moved to appoint Stu as the delegate representing Lamoine at the MMA Convention in October. Stu said he would try to attend. Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 4-0.**

Education Planning – Nathan handed out a spreadsheet giving cost comparisons for various communities for operating a school of similar size and configuration as Lamoine. He noted that Lamoine is pretty close to average. He said the planning committee will meet again on Sunday and should have a finalized report for the next Selectmen's Meeting. There was a brief discussion about what would happen if Ellsworth should withdraw from the RSU and Lamoine opted to stay.

Next meeting – There will be a special meeting on Tuesday, September 24, 2013 at 7PM with the town attorney and the attorney for the plaintiffs in the gravel pit suit. The next regular meeting will be on the 26th at 7:00 PM. There was a discussion as to whether the meeting on the 24th would be in public session. Stu said he would imagine it would have to be unless the Selectmen opted to enter executive session to discuss a legal matter with the town attorney.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst. to the Selectmen